

May 9, 2007

Democrats Defund Military Modernization

Washington, D.C.- Congressman Akin (R-Mo), a member of the House Armed Services Committee, decried the stripping of \$867 million in funding for a critical Army Modernization project known as Future Combat Systems.

FCS, which is a program to modernize and integrate the nation's armed forces, was stripped of nearly 25 percent of its budget by a strictly party-line vote on an amendment offered by Akin to restore funding for the program. The vote was 33 to 26.

Congressman Akin issued the following statement:

"The FCS is critical for the modernization of our military, and is essential to keep our armed services second to none when it comes to the demands of future combat scenarios. The FCS program has been strongly supported by the United States Army which understands the need to find new technologies to optimize information flow and combat systems in the future. The management of information and the timeliness of that information in the hands of the war fighter are critical elements in battlefield situations. By degrading that future capability, the modernization of the army is seriously compromised

"To strip funding for the project is dangerously short sighted. Despite the Democrats' reluctance to invest in FCS, the future is going to arrive and we had better be prepared for it. Future U.S. servicemen and women deserve more than finger pointing and hand wringing about the lack of preparation or degraded equipment capability, and the time to act to prepare for the future is the present.

"Given that such a project takes years of lead time and intensive engineering, I fear that if unchecked the myopic vision of the majority party will have serious consequences when it comes to future national security and force protection."